



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Friday, March 12, 2021
1:00 PM
State Capitol

in consideration of
SCR 61/SR 43
**REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE
AND PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee:

The Office of Planning (OP) offers the following **clarifying comments and proposed amendments** on SCR 61/SR 43. The Office of Planning appreciates the intent of this resolution and supports the reaffirmation of the state's commitment to combat climate change.

The Office of Planning notes that the state has previously prioritized climate change adaptation through the codification of Hawai'i Revised Statutes §226-109 within the Hawai'i State Planning Act as a priority guideline for the State, and would like to offer the following clarifications for the committee's consideration:

- **Page 1, Lines 1-3:** "WHEREAS, [~~in 2018~~] the State adopted legislation, Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, which committed to complying with the Paris Climate Agreement, and enacted and codified Hawaii Revised Statutes §225P-5 in 2018 to reach [~~carbon neutrality~~] a Zero Emissions Clean Economy by 2045; and"
- **Page 1, Lines 9-11:** "WHEREAS, [~~local experts~~] the State's Sea Level Rise Adaptation Vulnerability Report estimates that the sea level will rise by three feet as early as 2060 and cause at least \$19,000,000,000 in damage by the end of the century; and"
- **Page 1, Lines 24-26:** "WHEREAS, [~~the State is legally~~] Hawaii Revised Statutes §269-92 require[~~d~~]s each electric utility company that sells electricity for consumption in the State shall establish a renewable portfolio standard of [to obtain] one hundred percent of its net electricity sales [~~from renewable sources~~] by [2040] December 31, 2045 [~~as outlined in its renewable portfolio standards~~]; and"

- **Recommended additional paragraph between Page 2, Lines 24 and 26:**
“WHEREAS, the State adopted recent legislation, Act 45, Session Laws of 2020, which established a statewide sustainability branch within the office of planning to develop, organize, and promote policies and programs that assist in the meeting of Hawaii’s numerous sustainability and climate policies and goals, in addition to updating and reaffirming the role of the office of planning to coordinate among state agencies regarding climate change adaptation, sea level rise adaptation, and sustainability; and”
- **Recommended additional paragraph to immediately follow:**
“WHEREAS, Hawaii Revised Statutes §226-109 of the Hawaii State Planning Act established state climate change adaptation priority guidelines to prepare the state to address the impacts of climate change, including impacts to the areas of agriculture, conservation lands, coastal and nearshore marine areas, natural and cultural resources, education, energy, higher education, health, historic preservation, water resources, the built environment, such as housing, recreation, transportation, and the economy; and”
- **Page 3, Lines 34-39:** “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State will persist in its mission to reach [~~carbon neutrality~~] a Zero Emissions Clean Economy and use renewable sources to obtain a renewable portfolio standard of one hundred percent of [the State’s] net electricity sales statewide by [2040] 2045 and will prioritize the establishment of a green energy industry within the islands by supporting renewable sources of energy and green initiatives; and”

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide the committee with clarifying comments and proposed amendments to this resolution.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday March 12, 2021
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 61/ SENATE RESOLUTION 43
REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE
AND PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 61/Senate Resolution 43 affirms the State's commitment to combat climate change and highlights the important role the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) plays in this effort. **The Department supports these measures with comments.**

The resolutions recognize the importance of Hawaii's unique natural and cultural resources to sustaining life in the islands, and that funding for the management of these resources has not kept pace with the scale of effort required to address the challenges we face, most recently with climate change.

The Department notes that the final approved Fiscal Year (FY) 21 budget numbers are as follows:

WHEREAS, in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Department of Land and Natural Resources was budgeted ~~\$185,298,304~~ \$157,867,887 in the final approved Statewide Supplemental Operating Budget out of a final approved statewide total of ~~\$16,197,208,201~~ \$15,672,211,865, constituting only ~~1.1~~ 1.0 percent of the Statewide Supplemental Operating Budget;

Of this \$157,867,887 Department FY21 budget, \$64,406,646 or 41% was in general funds; \$65,823,551 or 42% was in special funds - much of it from rents and fees produced by the Department; \$24,881,333 or 16% was in federal funds, and \$2,364,217 or 1% was in miscellaneous other funds.

The Department appreciates the resolutions' recognition of the scope and importance of the Department's mission and its critical role in Hawaii's response to climate change. Protection and management of Hawaii's natural environment is vital to maintaining the health and well-being of our residents, and to provide ecological resilience. The Department recognizes the important role of communities and nonprofit partners in supporting ecosystem restoration and is dedicated to continuing to collaborate with partners to address climate change.

The Department supports these measures as they highlight the importance of natural resources in addressing climate change and the role of the Department in managing these resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 10, 2021

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: SCR 61/ SR 43 REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT
CLIMATE CHANGE AND PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION

Meeting: Friday, March 12, 2021, 1:00 p.m., via videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its Natural Resources Committee are in **strong support** of SCR 61 and SR 43, as they propose to reaffirm the State's commitment to combat climate change and prioritize climate change legislation, all of which are consistent with the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") Party Platform.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has adopted at its 2018 State Convention, clear safeguards to protect and promote our clean and healthy environment. At page 17 of the DPH Platform, it specifically provides, to wit:

ENVIRONMENT

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our *'āina* against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.

Further, the DPH Platform provides on page 18 as follows:

CONFRONT GLOBAL THREATS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our National Security, and DPH believes it would be a grave mistake for the United States to wait for another nation to take the lead in combating the global climate emergency. According to the U.S. military, climate change is a threat multiplier that is already contributing to new conflicts over resources, catastrophic natural disasters, and the degradation of vital ecosystems across the globe. DPH recognizes the catastrophic consequences facing our State, our country, our planet, and civilization.

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
March 10, 2021
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We believe that Hawai'i must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. We are committed to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat. Our generation must lead the fight against climate change and we applaud Hawai'i's leadership in joining the historic Paris Climate Accord. We will not only meet the goals set in Paris, we will seek to exceed them and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. We will support other States and developing countries in their efforts to mitigate carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, deploy more clean energy, and invest in climate resilience and adaptation.

Specifically, SCR 61 and SR 43 call for the State to commit to focusing on climate change legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions as provided within the framework of the 2016 Paris Climate Accord; to setting ambitious goals for carbon sequestration, decrease of greenhouse gas emissions, and decrease of the State's dependence on imported fuels; to its mission to reach carbon neutrality and use renewable sources to obtain one hundred percent of the State's electricity by 2040 and will prioritize the green energy industry; and to raising awareness about the climate crisis and advocating for climate literacy and will promote youth climate literacy and increased public awareness.

We strongly urge the passage of SCR 61 and SR 43, as they propose to reaffirm the State's commitment to combat climate change and prioritize climate change legislation, all of which are consistent with the DPH Platform.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on these important issues.

Respectfully yours,
Alan B. Burdick
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